

**REMARKS**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on April 11, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-12, 14-27 and 29-34 are pending in this Application. Claims 1, 11, 14, 15, 26, and 29-34 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 14, 15, 26, and 29-34 have been amended. A version of the claims containing markings to show the changes made is included hereinabove. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12, 14-27, and 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over QAD Inc.'s MFG/PRO eB and eQ Order Management solutions, QAD.com: Application datasheets, Sales and distribution and Product pages and QAD Storefront Informational White Paper, A solution space approach white paper and Collaborative Applications Power B2B Transactions (hereinafter collectively QAD) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,534 to Orr et al. (hereinafter Orr).

QAD discloses an order management system for processing orders. QAD (as stated by the Examiner on page 9 of the Office Action) does not disclose or suggest processing changes to orders.

Orr discloses a system and method for controlling, monitoring, and integrating engineering and manufacturing changes in a manufacturing enterprise. Orr does not disclose the use or changing of purchase orders. Purchase orders are quite different from engineering changes. In Orr, an engineering change order is used to change the design of an item. A change to a purchase order does not effect the design of an item. Further, the engineering change order does not come from a customer (as would a change to a purchase order) but instead results from the designer. Accordingly, the applicability of an engineering change order system to a purchase order system for purposes of determining patentability is not proper.

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Further, even if one were to theoretically combine QAD and Orr, since neither of QAD nor Orr, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a method for processing changes to purchase orders for items offered for sale which includes receiving a change to an existing order as a result of a customer request and further providing a change order result to the customer such that the customer is capable of distinguishing the differences between the change order and the existing order as recited by amended claim 1, claim 1 is believed distinguishable over QAD and Orr. Further still, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the order processing system is an object oriented order processing system having an order object, the order object including a reference to a collection of multiple objects containing attribute information and further that the change order includes a reference to an order comparator object. Support for this can be found at page 14, line 14 through page 16, line 8 of the specification. Neither QAD nor Orr disclose or suggest recite that the order processing system is an object oriented order processing system having an order object, the order object including a reference to a collection of multiple objects containing attribute information and further that the change order includes a reference to an order comparator object.

Claims 11, 14, 15, 26 and 30-34 have been amended in a similar manner as claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 29 has been canceled. Claims 2-10, 12 16-25 and 27 depend from claims 1, 11, 15 or 26 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable.

In view of the above, the Examiner's rejections are believed to have been overcome placing claims 1-12, 14-27 and 30-34 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No.: CIS00-3839

Dated: September 8, 2005